

NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION Meeting

January 3, 2007 MINUTES

Location: Newton City Hall Cafeteria

Present: Joe DeVito (chair), Anthony Bibbo, Richard Dyer, Donna Gordon, Matt Green, Peter Harrington, Officer Jim O'Loughlin, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Terance Sack, Robert Staulo
Students: Kira Mascho, Katie Sanders,

Regrets: Brandon Harris, Joanne Kazarian, Kipaya Kapiga, Sarah Laski, Lisa Langone, Stephen Ross

Staff: Beverly Droz, Director, Human and Volunteer Services

Guests: Chris Fortunato (NCSC), Devin Perry

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

Introductions were made around the table. We welcomed Chris Fortunato from NCSC and Devin Perry, a student. It was noted that a calendar of meeting dates for 2007 was on the reverse side of the agenda.

Motion to approve minutes of December 6, 2006 was passed.

Treasurer's Report:

The Autumn Invasion bill for custodian/use of City Hall has been processed: \$456.

The FCD deposit for the NNHS seminar has been submitted: \$350.

The balance in our fiscal year account is: \$1,679.23

The revolving account balance is now \$ 359.62 (following the deposit noted in Dec. minutes of \$43 from continued water bottle sales at city hall). Since the last meeting, Bev has collected another \$27.50 from continued water bottle sales at city hall and Katie has \$17 from water bottle sales at NSHS. Hence \$44.50 will be deposited into the revolving account this week.

Drugs & Alcohol Prevention Booklet:

Bev passed out a "close to final" draft of the booklet reminding everyone it is based on the former Youth Commission booklet but with a few new added topics as presented at the past several meetings, and obviously updated contact information. Denise has continued meeting with professionals including recently with Chris Fortunato. The booklet is meant to continue to be a resource guide. The plan is to finalize it by Jan. 10 in order to print copies in time for the Jan. 18 Forum on Drinking, Drugs & Depression to be held at N. W. Hospital. There was general dislike of the cover and Bev agreed it could easily be changed. There were several suggestions such as: delete the curfew listing, reword the paragraph about parents searching teens' rooms, and separate the contact numbers into support and emergency.

FCD:

We are again sponsoring Freedom from Chemical Dependency seminars in the high schools.

NNHS: Jeanne White is coordinating for March 17.

NSHS: Donna will schedule for March also

Over -

Internet Safety:

Joe reported he's started outreaching to PTSO chairs at the middle schools so they can plan a program for those parents. Chris does presentations for Project Alliance at the Middlesex D.A.'s office and that's a good source of info. Seminars have to be tailored differently for parents and kids.

Peter asked about new cell phones with instant access to the Internet and would it encourage predators. Chris said the main concern is what the kids put out there and trying to be sure they are educated about the consequences for it.

Other business:

The Teen Advisory Board at the Newton Free Library is looking for more members. Besides planning programs the board is designing a library space for teenagers and a Web page. The next monthly meeting is Jan. 18 and the contact info is: newtonreference@minlib.net

Stephanie is looking into the Safe Homes Program and will report back next month.

Youth Foundation Report:

Joe spoke to Catherine Farrell in the Law Department. She'll be back in touch but indicated there won't be any problems with setting it up. There's talk about another foundation being started. We don't want to step on toes of other foundations, but rather leverage opportunities.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

The next meeting will be on February 7th at 7pm in the City Hall Cafeteria.